

City of Fort Smith, Arkansas
Minutes of the Streets, Bridges and Associated Drainage
Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Advisory Committee Meeting
October 6, 2016

Stan Snodgrass announced that Aaron St. Amant (Chairman) would be unable to attend the meeting today and a chairperson to preside over the meeting would need to be appointed. David Armbruster made a motion, seconded by Tiffinee Baker to appoint Robert Brown as the chairperson. All were in favor.

A meeting of the Streets, Bridges and Associated Drainage Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on October 6, 2016, in the Planning Conference Room #326 of the City by Robert Brown.

Committee members present:

Tiffinee Baker – Ward 2
Robert Brown – Ward 3
David Armbruster – Ward 4
Nathaniel Deason – Ward 4
Philip Rosar – Ward 4

Committee members absent:

Aaron St. Amant – Ward 3 (Chairman)
Stan Vlademar – Ward 1

City Staff Present:

Stan Snodgrass, Director of Engineering
Sonya Elliott, Administrative Coordinator
Jennifer Stevens, Accounting Technician

Minutes of the August 25, 2016 Meeting

David Armbruster made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting and Tiffinee Baker seconded. The minutes were approved 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

New Business:

Robert Brown asked about looking at the feasibility of widening North 50th Street between Grand Avenue and Midland Boulevard. Stan Snodgrass noted that North 50th Street between North O Street and Kelley Highway was included as part of the 2016 street overlay/reconstruction program. The project is schedule to be out for bid shortly but does not include any widening to the existing street section.

Robert Brown asked if there had been a formal study done on traffic in this section. Stan Snodgrass indicated that there had been no traffic study. David Armbruster stated that it gets congested during school drop off and pick up time. Stan Snodgrass agreed

noting that similar traffic concerns exist for all school locations across the city during pick up and drop off times. Robert Brown asked if it would be better to make it with three lanes with a turning lane. David Armbruster stated that are not enough sidewalks along North 50th Street and would like an update from Greg Riley.

Stan Snodgrass stated that if the committee desired, a traffic study would be completed to determine possible widening and/or other improvements to help with the traffic along North 50th Street between Grand Avenue and Midland Boulevard. Robert Brown made the motion for the study, and Philip Rosar seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Robert Brown asked where we are on looking at a new street rating system. Stan Snodgrass stated that it would be looked at it throughout 2017. The University of Arkansas Civil Engineering Department has helped develop a pavement management system. Stan noted that Matt, Brian and Greg are actually attending an APWA seminar in Fayetteville today about the rating system to gather more information.

Robert Brown asked if there had been any plans to widen further sections of Jenny Lind Road to Dodson Avenue. Stan Snodgrass stated the section from Dodson Avenue to Dallas Street had been widened about 10 years ago. Stan noted that the four lane section of from Dallas Street to Independence Street is being resurfaced as part of the 2017 street overlay/reconstruction program. The section of Jenny Lind Road between Independence Street and Zero Street has not had plans developed and several unsuccessful attempts had been made at securing federal funding for this section.

Robert Brown asked for an update on the May Branch Project and questioned taking a tour to understand the flooding issues. Stan Snodgrass stated that we could, but it would be better to let the engineering consultant (FTN Associates) look at it first, and give us feedback and options for reducing the flooding. Robert Brown asked if we could make a pond out there like Carol Ann Cross Park. Stan Snodgrass stated that the watershed runs from Southside High School to Creekmore Park, under Rogers Ave, along 31st St., turns to Martin Luther King Park, then to "P" Street. Along this area there is not enough change in grade to develop a pond similar to Carol Ann Cross Park. Stan Snodgrass noted that stormwater detention areas would be considered as options during the review of the May Branch area by the consultant. Robert Brown tabled further discussion on May Branch until additional information is provided by the consultant.

Robert Brown asked when we are going to get the allocation report from the finance department which would provide justification for the different city departments which have funding from the CIP. Stan Snodgrass stated that Jennifer Walker is still working on that but has been covered up with preparing the 2017 budget.

Robert Brown asked if there was further information regarding the widening of N. 62nd Street south of Kelley Highway. Stan Snodgrass stated that no further information had been received.

Robert Brown asked Tiffinee Baker if she had any projects on the north side of town that she thought needed to be addressed. Tiffinee Baker stated that she did not have any others at this time other than reviewing the traffic on North 50th Street.

Philip Rosar asked if there were there any questions that came up at the board meeting about the 5 year plan. Stan Snodgrass stated there were none at the voting meeting, but there was a question about the Kelley Highway Extension at the study session.

Robert Brown asked if Grand Avenue was scheduled to be resurfaced. Stan Snodgrass stated not at this time and noted that certain sections had been completed a few years back. Stan further noted more sections of Grand Avenue would likely need resurfacing in the next few years.

Tiffinee Baker questioned the criteria for putting in a crosswalk on a major street like Kelley Highway. Stan Snodgrass stated that we try to put them only at a signalized intersections. Stan noted that midblock crossings can be hazardous as people will walk into the crosswalk without looking both ways and assume the cars will stop. Philip asked if the crosswalks are always actuated by a push button. Stan Snodgrass stated that most all of them are but some traffic signals like those in the downtown area are primarily timed on a set cycle.

Robert Brown asked when the committee would hear about the downtown study which includes A Street & B Street. Stan Snodgrass stated that he believed the report is scheduled for completion in March or April of next year. Stan also noted that the draft study by Gateway Planning could be viewed on the City's website.

Robert Brown asked where we are on the Highway 45 widening project. Stan Snodgrass stated that it is in the AHTD's hands and we are waiting on them to move forward with a cost share agreement.

The next meeting will be November 17, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the Planning Conference Room # 326.

With no further discussion or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Brown at 12:37 p.m. and David Armbruster seconded the motion. 5 were in favor and 0 were opposed.